

Alaska State Board of Education & Early Development
Approved Minutes
January 26, 2015
Tele/videoconference based in Juneau

Chair Esther Cox called the meeting to order at noon via tele/videoconference. Sue Hull and Kenny Gallahorn were absent. Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance. No members declared conflicts of interest. Members approved the agenda.

Public Comment.

Cathy Busbey, principal of Birchtree Charter School in Palmer, thanked the board for placing on the agenda a proposed regulation regarding waivers from early literacy screening. Mandatory screenings in grades kindergarten and first grade conflicted with the school's ability to choose its curriculum, she said. The board should consider whether any proposed regulation should apply to all students, she said.

Donna Levitt, of Winterberry Charter School in Anchorage, said the school capitalizes on students' strengths and builds their confidence to work on any weaknesses. She would like her school to receive a waiver from some early literacy screenings, if they are available.

Shanna Mall, principal of Winterberry Charter School in Anchorage, said their students grow in a manner at least level, if not above, their peers in other schools.

Work session

Agenda Item 1. Legislative report. Legislative liaison Marcy Herman briefed the board on legislation introduced to date. Board members asked about House Bill 80, which would repeal the requirement that 11th-graders take, at state expense, the SAT, ACT, or WorkKeys assessment. James Fields asked about an upcoming Senate Education Committee hearing regarding the state board's role. Commissioner Hanley said the department would present information about the statutory role of the department and state board as well as information about federal education requirements.

Agenda Item 2. Budget Report. Heidi Teshner, Director of Administrative Services, said the department must cut \$2.8 million from the administration's work-in-progress budget, which was released Dec. 15. Details will be available at the March meeting.

Agenda Item 3. ESEA Waiver Renewal. Dr. Susan McCauley, Director of Teaching & Learning Support, reviewed the cover memo in the board's packet. The department expects to present proposed regulations in March to reflect any new requirements in the state's renewed waiver from portions of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Agenda Item 4. Career & Technical Education Briefing. Commissioner Hanley said the department is reviewing federal findings about the state's use of Carl Perkins grants, particularly

in giving very small grants to small school districts. He said the department is looking for ways for districts to share resources and improve student outcomes. Any changes in the state's Carl Perkins plan will require approval from the state board and the federal government.

Agenda Item 5. Early Literacy Screening Waiver. Dr. Susan McCauley, Director of Teaching & Learning Support, said the proposed regulation responds to the board's direction. It would allow districts to request waivers for a school's kindergarten and/or first-grade students by Aug. 1 of a school year. She reviewed the criteria for approving a waiver.

Business session

Agenda Item 6. Early Literacy Screening Waiver. Barbara Thompson moved and Jim Merriner seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development open a period of public comment on 4 AAC 06.714 Early Literacy Screening. The board approved the motion in a unanimous roll call vote of those present.

Agenda Item 7. Consent Agenda. Deputy Commissioner Les Morse spoke about William Hutton's experience in education. Barbara Thompson praised Mr. Hutton. Jim Merriner moved and Barbara Thompson seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development approve the consent agenda consisting of the approval of the appointment of William Hutton as the Mt. Edgecumbe High School superintendent. The board approved the motion in a unanimous roll call vote of those present.

Board comments

Jim Merriner thanked the department for preparing the meeting.

Kobe Rizk described the cold weather in Fairbanks.

Esther Cox said she sent notes to students who interviewed for the board's student representative-elect and to Alaska's new Blue Ribbon Schools and Title I Distinguished Schools.

The board adjourned at 1:20 p.m.